

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated July 17, 2003.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 138 due to a cited informality. In response to the objection Applicant has amended Claim 138 to correct the informality. In view of the amendment to 138, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 144-147 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that the claims do not positively recite the "striker" as part of the invention. In response, Applicant has amended Claim 144 to remove reference to the striker. In view of the amendment, reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is requested.

The Examiner has further rejected Claims 138, 139 and 141-147 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type of double patenting, in view of Claim 26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,386,599 to Chevallier. In response to the double patenting rejection, Applicant submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer, disclaiming that portion of any resulting patent which extends beyond the full term of U.S. Patent No. 6,386,599. In view of the Terminal Disclaimer reconsideration of the double patenting rejection is requested.

The Examiner has further rejected Claims 138, 139, 141 and 143-147 under 35 U.S.C. §102, as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,762,348 to Matsumoto.

Claims 138, 139, 141, 142 and 144-147 have further been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,411,302 to Shimada.

In view of the prior art rejections Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly distinguishable the novel aspects of the invention from the cited references. None of the references are believed to disclose or suggest the invention as presently claimed

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In view of the amendments reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing all claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Should any outstanding matters remain the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: JAN 20, 2004 By:



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